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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th June 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 5th June greets with unalloyed pleasure the return of peace in South Africa. The Boers have prodigally spent their lifeblood for the independence of their country. But they have little cause to grieve that they have not been able to maintain it in full. They will be taught in their own language; they will be allowed to keep arms for protection against wild beasts, and they will in proper time be given representative government under British supremacy. All these terms of peace proclaim the greatness of both the parties. Although extremists cannot be expected to be satisfied with this peace, the cool-headed and circumspect among the English and Boers have been fully satisfied with it.

SANJIVANI,
June 5th, 1902.

2. Referring to the terms of the peace, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th June, writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
June 6th, 1902.

The Peace. Much scandal and waste of life and money would have been prevented on the part of the English, if this peace had been concluded earlier. The terms of the peace show that England has had to give up her vaunted point of unconditional surrender, and has acted like the jealous lady in the Indian ballad who at last spoke to her lover in spite of her resolution not to do so.

Strength is everywhere feared. In this defeat of the Boers England has very luckily been able to escape with her prestige, the maintenance of which would otherwise have proved fatal to her. The Boers knew from the beginning that the English would be successful in the long run, but they said that their defeat would be such as would astonish the world; and the Boers have kept their word. The English said that nothing but unconditional surrender would satisfy them; and this resolve has been given up. The Boer war was not the Burmese war, and the Boers were not Burmese that they could be imprisoned and hung up indiscriminately as thieves and dacoits. However, all is well that ends well. We are glad that this long war has at last been ended. Pride of wealth and power made England disregard the whole world. British politicians were bent on extirpating a weak but gallant and independent people for the sake of maintaining their national prestige, though its maintenance might cause immense loss to their country. But King Edward VII was not to be blinded by such vanity. He has given proof of the largeness of his heart by bringing about the conclusion of the war for the sake of humanity. Now his coronation will be really covered with glory.

3. Referring to the conclusion of the Boer war, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th June, writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 6th, 1902.

Proposed holiday for the peace. There is hardly a country except the Transvaal in the continent of Africa into which Islam has not made its entrance. It is only the bigotry of the Boers which has so long prevented Musalman missionaries from gaining a footing in the Transvaal. Musalmans have therefore special reason to be grateful to England for bringing the Boer country under her subjection.

There will doubtless be universal rejoicing among the innumerable subjects of the King-Emperor, who rules over half the world, at the conclusion of this bloody and ruinous war. The conclusion of the peace has been celebrated with great enthusiasm in London. The 26th June will be a holiday on account of the Coronation. If the 27th and 28th June are made holidays on account of the peace, the conclusion of the Boer war will be long remembered by Indians.

4. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th June says:—We are glad at this news of peace with the Boers. What the detractors urge in this connection is not of much weight.

BANGAVASI,
June 7th, 1902.

The Peace. Some say that the granting of a war indemnity by victorious England to the vanquished Boers instead of her claiming such an indemnity herself, is something strange and opposed to all precedent. But this, as we take it, is only a sign of the magnanimity of England. It is only heroes who can afford to be magnanimous. If England had not allowed this indemnity to the impoverished Boers at this time, the Boer race would probably have become extinct. England's liberality may also have its source in a desire to convert

the Boers into fast friends. It is also our belief that the English have already granted, or will yet grant, to the vanquished Boers the right of carrying arms for the protection of person and property.

If there be anybody who does not rejoice over this peace, he must be a perversely minded man. The Boer war has cost nearly 300,000 human and animal lives, and more than 500 crores of rupees. Would you have any more expenditure of blood or money? This murderous war is now at an end. The Boers have acknowledged the supremacy of England. Let every house then resound with joyous music.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

HITAVADI,
June 6th, 1902.

5. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 6th June, says that, on the 9th April last, a girl named Hamiden-

A Police Sub-Inspector in the
Dacca district.

nnessa, aged 16 or 17, the wife of one Kamal

Karikar, an inhabitant of the village Alinagar

under the Sakrail thana, within the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district, made the following complaint to Babu Jatindra Mohan Singha, the Subdivisional Officer of Manikganj:—

"On the 16th Chaitra last, the Sub-Inspector of the Sakrail thana came to the village on an investigation and arrested my husband on a charge of theft and confined him in the house of one Jahur Miya in the village. On the next morning Lal Miya and Sibnath, dafadars, and Kharu, a chaukidar, carried me forcibly to the daroga in Jahur Miya's house. There the daroga beat me with his own hand and kept me confined. At night he took me and an old woman named Panchu Bewa to his bedroom, and tied the latter to a stake on the floor. He then dragged me up on his bed in her presence. My cries and entreaties were of no avail. He then forcibly poured wine into my mouth and ravished me. I was thus kept confined in Jahur Miya's house and ravished on three successive days. I was then allowed to go home. But on every one of the five or six nights during which the daroga stayed in the village, I used to be taken to him by the above two dafadars and the chaukidar for the purpose of having his lust satisfied. The same thing went on even after my husband had been *chalanned*."

The 18th April last was the date fixed for the hearing of the case. It is rumoured that the daroga tried to buy up the girl, but failed. On the other hand, no local mukhtar could be induced to appear for her husband, as the case was one in which the police was concerned. No one appeared for the girl also. She was perfectly helpless. Nothing has as yet been heard about the case. It is hoped that the authorities will enquire into the matter. There is a report of another case having been brought against the daroga in which one Saat Kumari, a prostitute, is said to have brought a case against him and some of his companions. It is also said that three of his companions were sentenced to imprisonment in this case and a charge was framed against him, that he had the case transferred to the Dacca head-quarters, and at last bought up the plaintiff with money. Are these cases true?

HITAVADI.

6. The same paper writes as follows:—On the 16th September last, Babu Mahes Chandra Maiti, an inhabitant of the village Akubpur in the Midnapore district, submitted to the District Magistrate a petition, signed by the

The Sutahata police in the
Midnapore district.

inhabitants of many villages, against the Sutahata police. But nothing has as yet been heard about it. It is, however, easily conceivable how the Sutahata police looks upon the Maiti family of Akubpur. One Abinas Chandra Acharyya, an inhabitant of the village, complained against one Bechi Dasi for having stolen tamarind fruits from his tree on the 31st January last. The Sub-Inspector of the Sutahata police-station came on investigation and reported the case as false. He said that the tree in question was 6 feet in diameter, that it was situate 200 cubits from the complainant's house, that an old woman like the accused could not possibly pluck down fruits from such a tree, that although the offence is reported to have been committed at 9 A.M., Babu Haris Chandra Maiti tried to extort Rs. 10 from the accused and prevented the complainant from lodging the complaint in the thana before 5 P.M., and

that on the accused woman's refusing to pay the money she was complained against. He also requested the authorities to charge the complainant under section 211 of the Penal Code, and to charge Haris Chandra Maiti and the village chaukidar, Hajara, under section 342 of the Penal Code, after his offence had been proved. This Haris Chandra Maiti was no other man than a brother of Mahes Chandra Maiti who had petitioned against the Sutahata police. The complainant petitioned for a local enquiry. The order of the local Sub-Deputy Magistrate after a local enquiry on the 2nd May last, runs thus:—"I went to the spot on 2nd May 1902. I saw the tamarind tree. A child of seven or eight years would easily get upon it, so it is not improbable that a woman of middle age, used to out-door labour, would get upon it and pluck down tamarind fruits. It is directly visible from the complainant's *ghāt* whence he says he had seen the accused. The whole village testifies to the truth of this case; so, in this case Bechi Dasi should be summoned under section 279 of the Indian Penal Code."

It remains to be seen what punishment is meted out to the Sub-Inspector for submitting a false report. We shall bring many other complaints against this Sub-Inspector to the notice of the authorities for redress.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 8th June says that on the 17th ultimo one Haladhar Chang, an inhabitant of the ^{A murder sought to be hushed up in the Dacca district.} Subhadhya village under the Karaniganj thana, in the Dacca district, was mercilessly beating his sister for money, when their old mother came to interpose between them. On this Haladhar beat her also, and she died in consequence. Babu Revati Mohan Ray, the village panchayet, ordered the village chaukidar to take the dead body to the thana. But the chaukidar went to the thana without the dead body, told the Sub-Inspector that the woman had died of asthma and took out an order from him for cremating the corpse, which was accordingly burnt. The panchayet reported the matter to the District Magistrate. The case is *sub-judice*. The Sub-Inspector surely knows that chaukidars never go to thanas to report cases of natural death. Why did he then order the cremation of the dead body without making any enquiry?

8. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June learns from a correspondent that on the night of the 3rd June last, two ^{Budmashi in a village in the Faridpur district.} *budmashes* entered the house of one Rakhal Chandra Mal, near the zamindar's house at Chauddarasi within the jurisdiction of the Sadarpur post-office in the Faridpur district. They threatened to cut Rakhal's mother into pieces in case she made any noise and attempted to carry off Rakhal's wife. But somehow or other the *budmashes* failed in their attempt. It is strange that a thing like this could happen in a place inhabited by two powerful zamindars.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

9. *Al Punch* [Patna City] of the 31st May is sorry that since the ^{Quarrels between the executive and the judiciary.} Pennell case the hostile feeling between the judiciary and the executive has been assuming a very serious aspect. The quarrel between the two parties which has lately occurred in connection with a certain case in Rajshahi is very unseemly. The executive would have the judiciary to decide criminal cases according to their own whims. But the judiciary do not like to see any one interfering with their independence.

10. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd June says that the inhabitants of the village Pingana within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district petitioned the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police on seeing no enquiry made by the Jagannathganj police into the theft case that had occurred in the village. As a result of this, Babu Kali Krishna Ghosh, the Inspector of the Tangail thana, and the Sub-Inspectors of the Jagannathganj and Gopalpur thanas appeared in the village on the 28th Baisakh last, a month after the theft had been committed. But their appearance produced no effect on the *budmashes* because they made no vigorous inquiry. The respectable villagers gave

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 8th, 1902.

PRATIVASI,
June 9th, 1902.

AL PUNCH,
May 31st, 1902.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1902.

evidence against the character of many people whose houses were not searched. Nor was any attempt made to trace the offenders. Does the police expect thieves to surrender of their own accord?

The editor says that the frequency of theft cases in the district has alarmed the people.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 3rd, 1902.

CHARU MIHIR.

11. The same paper says that there is no need of keeping four Sub-Judges in Mymensingh, two permanent and two additional when three only can do the work of the district. The files of the permanent Sub-Judges are very light.

12. The same paper says that in the head-quarters of Mymensingh, it was always the practice in the law courts to write separately all the summonses which one peon could serve and then to enter in one summons the names of all the witnesses summoned by them. One peon only could therefore be charged with the work of serving them. But it has recently been ruled that two summonses should be written for every witness. Thus more than one peon can now be charged with the work of serving summonses to a single person. It is everywhere known that these peons have to be gratified by the parties for serving summonses. If therefore two peons have to serve the same summons, two men must be gratified. Again, this double service will necessitate the making of many affidavits where one might do. It is therefore hoped that the District Judge will restore the old system of issuing summonses.

13. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 4th June says that recently Babu Kedar Nath Nath, a mukhtar, applied for a copy of a record in the Berhampore civil court and gave the necessary folios and court fee. A few days after he went to the copying section for the copy. But neither the record nor the copy was to be found. It was impossible to ascertain who had lost them because no receipt had been taken from the copyist to whom it had been entrusted. The loss must be serious to Kedar Babu's client. The District Judge is requested to inquire into the matter.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th June writes as follows regarding the decision of the Acting Chief Justice in the Rajshahi affair:—

Everybody had thought that, as regards the grave and unjust charges brought against Mr. Lee by Messrs. Roe and Ryan, the High Court would do justice to him and severely rebuke the offending Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police. But, strangely enough, the Acting Chief Justice thinks that it is Mr. Lee who is to blame and deserves censure. The High Court is our strength and hope, but if the Honourable Judges of that Court go on administering justice in the way it has done in the present case, there will remain no difference between the High Court's justice and justice as it is dispensed by the pettiest Magistrate in the country.

But what has Mr. Lee done to justify the severe rebuke administered to him by Sir T. Prinsep? According to the Acting Chief Justice, the letter written by Mr. Lee to the High Court regarding the *Muharram* cases is an attempt on his part to convict Mr. Roe of partiality. Now, before bringing such a grave charge against an officer holding the responsible office of District Judge, it was clearly the duty of Sir T. Prinsep to point out how and where Mr. Lee had made such an attempt. But the Acting Chief Justice has done nothing of the kind and has contented himself with only abusing Mr. Lee. It is open to everybody to perform such a feat, and considering that Mr. Lee is an officer subordinate to the High Court and is precluded from making a reply, one fails to see that by rebuking him in this unjustifiable manner Sir T. Prinsep has in any way shown his courage or manliness.

One of the charges brought against Mr. Lee is that in his letter to the High Court he has permitted himself to make statements which are nowhere to be found in the records of the case. This is, of course, reprehensible to some extent, but it behoved Sir T. Prinsep to consider that for Mr. Lee to make any false statement in writing was simply impossible, and he might well therefore accept as true all statements contained in the letter, although some of them had found no place in the records. Even if the Chief Justice was not

prepared to show so much magnanimity, another course was open to him—he might reject the statements not borne out by the records and confined himself only to such as found a place therein. But instead of doing that, he has seized upon this trifling error and attempted to pooh-pooh everything contained in Mr. Lee's letter either by way of statement or argument. People who are thus always on the look-out for faults can never do justice, and that is why the strange decision of the High Court in this case has stupefied everybody.

What are the statements in the letter which find no place in the records? Mr. Lee says that Mr. Roe went to the thana and took down the depositions of many witnesses for the defendant, Mr. Ryan, in the absence of the plaintiffs who could not therefore cross-examine them. The matter is not, of course, mentioned in the records. But does the Acting Chief Justice really believe that the statement is a pure fabrication on Mr. Lee's part? Another statement made by Mr. Lee is that he was told by the Honorary Magistrate, Shah Jaharul, that the way in which the plaintiffs' witnesses were treated by the District Magistrate prevented many of them from giving their evidence. It is also stated by Mr. Lee that Bhuban Babu, the plaintiffs' pleader, told him that on behalf of Mr. Ryan Abdul Chhatter had informed the Babu that they would buy up or win over all the plaintiffs. It is because Mr. Lee has confidence in the Honorary Magistrate and the plaintiffs' pleader that he has accepted their statements as true. It may also have possibly struck Mr. Lee that a perusal of the records alone would not enable the Judges of the High Court to understand the real facts of the case, and that for that purpose it would be well to inform them of a few additional facts which were not mentioned in them. At any rate, Sir T. Prinsep might have regarded the letter in that light. But instead of doing so he has tried to make a mountain of a molehill. The matter he was called upon to decide was that as the manner in which Mr. Roe had enquired into the *Muharram* cases and dismissed them was far from proper and satisfactory, whether or no the High Court should order a fresh enquiry, and that if the enquiry showed that the plaintiffs' cases were not baseless whether or no it should order Mr. Ryan to be tried either by itself or by some special Magistrate. In fact, this was the purport of Mr. Lee's letter to the High Court, and it was further stated by him in the course of that letter that the evidence recorded by the Magistrate would show that the case of the plaintiffs was not baseless. The attempt made by Messrs. Roe and Ryan to insult and discredit him was also referred to in the letter, and Mr. Lee in a manner sought the protection of the High Court against the treatment to which he had been subjected at the hands of those officers. But in the judgment of the High Court it appeared to be established that Mr. Roe had done impartial justice, that the case called for no fresh enquiry and that Mr. Lee was a very bad man.

We have grave doubts as to whether the Acting Chief Justice had carefully studied the *Muharram* case papers before he gave his judgment. If he had, he would have seen that the enquiry made by Mr. Roe was no enquiry at all, and that he had from the beginning to the end shown a bias in favour of Mr. Ryan. So, it is Mr. Roe and not Mr. Lee who is open to the charge of showing partiality. Even when he was making his enquiry Mr. Roe gave it out that Mr. Ryan was innocent and that the plaintiffs were liars. One fails to see how a person with such a frame of mind could place the case in his own file. It is a wonder that the Acting Chief Justice is silent on the point.

In fact, Mr. Roe has from the first to the last acted as Mr. Ryan's friend and special pleader. If any other person had been arraigned on the grave charge which was brought against Mr. Ryan, the Magistrate would have certainly and without delay issued a warrant against the accused. But even without making an enquiry Mr. Roe publicly declared Mr. Ryan innocent. After thus coming to the conclusion that Mr. Ryan was innocent he set about collecting some nominal evidence. An attempt was also set on foot to implicate Mr. Lee in this affair, while the witnesses who were likely to depose against Mr. Ryan were let go. Mr. Ryan, the defendant, was permitted to sleep at his case, while Mr. Roe was making a search for witnesses on his behalf, and the Magistrate actually went to the thana to take down their evidence. Nor

was this all. Mr. Ryan prayed that Dr. Jordan's evidence might be taken. But this was not done, for his evidence, if taken, would have given the lie to Mr. Ryan. All this would have been made clear to the Acting Chief Justice if he had only taken the trouble to study the records of the case with care and attention. But where is the necessity of studying the records when the object is to trample on Mr. Lee?

It is a wonder that the Acting Chief Justice has contented himself with only making a slight reference to the gravest charge brought against Mr. Lee by the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, namely, that he had instigated the Musalmans to bring a case against Mr. Ryan. Sir T. Prinsep says that Mr. Lee, of course, did nothing of the kind. Now, if Mr. Lee is innocent, so far as this charge is concerned, how dreadful becomes the character of Messrs. Roe and Ryan? But while the Chief Justice finds nothing wrong or reprehensible in it, he has taken Mr. Lee to task for his speaking the truth about those two officers. Mr. Lee is censured by the High Court because he had stated that Mr. Roe was guilty of having shown bias, but it has nothing to say to Mr. Ryan who had brought a grossly false case against Mr. Lee. Justice like this really produces a feeling of utter despondency.

The High Court's treatment of Mr. Lee has deeply pained the natives whose expectation of obtaining justice has completely disappeared. If rebuke by the High Court be the reward of any District Judge who may find it his duty to make any adverse comments upon the action of the police and the magistracy, where is the Judge who will henceforward venture to do justice? And if an impartial administration of justice should disappear from the country, with its disappearance would disappear the chief blessing of British rule.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA.
June 4th, 1902.

15. The same paper learns from the *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] newspaper that on the 15th May last a witness had occasion

The Magistrate's knowledge of to say "চিরদিন দখলে আছে" in his evidence Bengali.

before a Magistrate of Rajshahi. The Magistrate thought that চিরদিন was the name of a man and ordered the court-peon to call him.

The peon called aloud চিরদিন, চিরদিন; but no one came. At last a mukhtar explained to the Magistrate that চিরদিন was not the name of a man, but meant "for a long time." Who was this Magistrate? Was it Mr. Roe who had once sent a witness to *hajat* for having failed to understand his Bengali?

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

16. The same paper says that some time ago the Burdwan police having failed to trace the real offender who had murdered one Omrao Khan, an inhabitant of Boorhat, Burdwan, sent up another man for trial as the murderer.

But Ram Narayan Babu, the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Burdwan, acquitted him. The District Magistrate rearrested him and committed him to the Sessions. But the Sessions Judge also acquitted him. It remains to be seen what punishment is meted out to the District Magistrate by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for unnecessarily harassing and causing immense loss to an innocent subject of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

PALLIVASI,
June 6th, 1902.

The Sub-Registrar of Guskara in the Burdwan district.

17. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 4th June says that one cannot have deeds returned to him after registration in the Guskara Sub-Registry office without gratifying the Sub-Registrar. On the 8th Jyaistha last, the Sub-Registrar insulted a Brahman, an inhabitant of the village Songai, in the presence of many respectable people, for telling him something about deeds Nos. 703 and 704 which the Brahman could not get back from the office although he had many times danced attendance for the same.

A Sadgop, an inhabitant of the village Kurhamba, wanted to borrow money for a marriage, and the transaction was to take place in the presence of the Sub-Registrar. On three successive days the intending borrower and creditor went to him for the purpose, but failed to overcome his sublime indifference. They were then obliged to change the date of the marriage.

Complaints against Sub-Registry offices have become very frequent from the time they have ceased to be presided over by paid officers of the Government.

18. Referring to the censure which has been passed by the High Court on Mr. Lee, the District Judge of Rajshahi, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th June says that the judgment of the High Court has displeased every

The High Court in the Rajshahi case. body. Although the High Court does not at present command so much respect as it did in the days of Sir Barnes Peacock, yet no one doubts the ability and legal knowledge of its present members. Although ordinary people are quite ignorant of the niceties of law, yet circumstances sometimes leave unfavourable impressions in their minds in certain matters. One can hardly agree with the High Court that because an Honorary Magistrate did not complain against his master, the District Magistrate, that he is to be always disbelieved. As to the alleged irrelevancy of portions of Mr. Lee's report, it must be stated that Mr. Lee was convinced of the truth of the case which had occurred in the town he lived in, and that he thought it necessary that those irrelevant things should be made known to the High Court. Mr. Roe, the District Magistrate, was really to blame if he took the depositions of witnesses in a thana in the absence of the plaintiffs. But the High Court says that the record of the case does not show that he did it. Does the Hon'ble High Court think that Mr. Lee is such a big fool that he would record an illegal proceeding? Mr. Lee believed that had the case been tried by a man other than Mr. Roe, many hidden things would have been brought to light. He therefore allowed many irrelevant matters to find a place in his report. But he never dreamt that that would bring down a shower of abuse on him from the High Court. The High Court knows full well that Government will never allow a repetition of the Noakhali affair, and people think that it was this conviction which led the High Court to chastise Mr. Lee on the ground of irrelevancy. It is a wonder that even after the Pennell case, Mr. Lee had the courage to criticise the action of the police and the Magistracy.

19. The same paper takes exception to the appointment of Mr. Dobbin, the Registrar of the Court of Small Causes in Calcutta, to the Coronership of the town in addition to his Registrarship. The former Registrar who used to devote his whole time to the work of the Small Cause Court had a salary of Rs. 750 per mensem. But Mr. Dobbin also draws almost the same pay, Rs. 700, although he is also a Coroner with an additional pay of Rs. 300. Why is the High Court so kind to Mr. Dobbin? Is there no man among native barristers who can be either a Registrar or a Coroner? Are all lucrative posts to be the monopoly of Europeans and Eurasians?

20. Referring to the circular recently issued by Mr. Foley, the District Magistrate of Burdwan, directing that no legal proceedings should be taken against police officers in his district without his sanction previously taken, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 6th June says, that the circular is a direct insult to a circular issued long ago by the High Court, ordering District Magistrates not to issue general circulars to their subordinate Magistrates. Did Mr. Foley take the permission of the High Court before issuing his own circular? If not he has been guilty of breaking official discipline.

21. Referring to the case in which Mr. Vernède, the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, was censured by the High Court for having tampered with a record, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th June asks whether such a worthless and headstrong man as Mr. Vernède should be allowed to do responsible work. Government should consider before entrusting judicial and executive functions to irresponsible people. In any other country the Joint-Magistrate would have been held responsible for the hardship and loss caused to the plaintiff in the above case. But everything is possible in India.

22. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th June writes as follows:—

The High Court in the Rajshahi Muharram case. Mr. Ryan submitted an explanation to the Magistrate charging the District Judge, Mr. Lee, with several serious offences. The Magistrate not

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June 5th, 1902.

SANJIVANI.

SAMAY,
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only accepted this explanation without the least demur or protest, but failed to take any notice whatever of the important letter which the District Judge addressed to him on the subject. In particular, he did not take the deposition of Dr. Jordan and several other witnesses whose evidence he was asked by the District Judge to take. Is this not a most suspicious circumstance—a circumstance which gives rise to grave misgivings?

Several accused persons submitted a representation to Mr. Lee, stating that the District Magistrate had done them injustice, and praying that Mr. Lee would order a fresh investigation. Mr. Lee was apparently puzzled, not knowing very well what to do under the circumstances. With the well-known misunderstanding between him and the Magistrate, to take up the matter himself was to lay his conduct open to misrepresentation. He therefore decided to refer the matter to the High Court, and everybody must admit that in deciding to do so he did the properest thing he could have done under the circumstances. He could have ordered a fresh investigation by the District Magistrate himself or by some other Magistrate or he could have had the case sent up to his own court. But he did not do anything of the kind, but referred the matter to the High Court. And what has the High Court done on receipt of this reference? Its action in the matter has really taken us aback.

In the first place, the High Court finds fault with Mr. Lee for not sending the District Magistrate's judgment in the case with the representation made by the accused. But a District Judge is not required by any law or circular to send the Magistrate's judgment in a case like this. Particularly, as Mr. Lee held no regular trial in this matter, the omission was hardly worth noting.

The High Court's next quarrel with Mr. Lee is for having made this reference instead of directing the accused themselves to move the High Court. But the law clearly empowers the District Judge to make a reference to the High Court in a case like this.

In reference to Mr. Lee's charge against the District Magistrate to the effect that he had not taken the evidence of certain witnesses, the High Court vindicates the latter by saying that as the plaintiffs did not ask the Magistrate to examine those witnesses, the Magistrate could not be expected to take their evidence. Well and good. But what about those witnesses whom the Magistrate was expressly asked by Mr. Lee to examine, in reference to the explanation submitted by Mr. Ryan? How is it that the High Court has nothing to say against the District Magistrate's failure to examine these witnesses?

With reference to the charge that the District Magistrate had gone, unasked, to the police-station, and there taken the deposition of certain witnesses on behalf of the accused in the absence of the plaintiff, the learned Judges of the High Court say that they can find no reference to this in the records of the case. Do they then expect to find everything in the records of a case, even a rumour about a District Magistrate having taken a bribe in a case? If there was no reference to it in the records, could not the learned Judges have called upon Mr. Lee for an explanation on the point instead of deciding the matter off hand?

The learned Judges admit that Mr. Ryan was wrong in accusing Mr. Lee as he did. The charges that Mr. Ryan brought against Mr. Lee were of so serious a nature that Mr. Ryan was liable to imprisonment under the law for bringing such unfounded charges against a high officer of Government. But the learned Judges have not even visited him with the least censure, but they have most severely censured Mr. Lee for the reflections he made upon the conduct of the District Magistrate. They have characterised Mr. Lee's conduct as unworthy of a Judge, and declared that they cannot find words to censure him adequately.

We grant that Mr. Lee's reflections upon the Magistrate betrayed irritation, and that was wrong. But while they have made no other remark about the serious charges brought against Mr. Lee save "This was a mistake," they have treated the man who was so charged to language which is harder than thunder itself. What kind of justice is this?

The conclusion that we, for ourselves, have arrived at in regard to the conduct of the High Court in this matter is that both Messrs. Prinsep and

Henderson are superannuated, and hence this mistake of theirs. They should retire from the Bench.

23. According to the *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 10th June, no one can say that where witnesses summoned do not appear in Court they are invariably absent of set summonses in Barisal.

Imprisonment for disobeying summonses in Barisal. Such failure to appear in Court is oftener due to urgent business or non-receipt of summons than to wilful contempt of Court. So far it was the usual practice to punish disobedience to summons with fine, but now this offence is, to our great surprise, being frequently punished with imprisonment in Barisal. A certain European has whispered into our ears that this is due to direction received from the superior authorities. There is no reason to disbelieve this, for it is no new thing with the authorities to issue such directions to the subordinate Magistrates. Some time ago a teacher of the Gara School was prosecuted for disobeying a summons. He had not received the summons and so he failed to appear in Court. The peon, however, stated that he had delivered the summons to the teacher, but his statement was disproved by evidence. The teacher was thus fortunate enough to escape imprisonment. These frequent imprisonments for not obeying summonses has created a panic in Barisal.

BIKAS,
June 10th, 1902.

(c)—*Jails.*

24. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 7th June, has the following:—

"Jail experiences." The hanging of one Mohanlal had been fixed for the 6th January last, but the man having submitted a prayer for his life to the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, execution was postponed to the 17th. But before any order had been passed on the petition by the Viceroy and a full week before that date the jail authorities, with a busy assiduity, began setting up a gallows right in front of the condemned cell in which the unhappy man was then passing the last days of his life. I could not help thinking at the time, that it was with a view to give the condemned criminal full opportunities for witnessing the arrangements for his approaching execution that this site had been chosen in preference to all others. This assiduity of the jail authorities, however laudable, must be pronounced heartless, considering that it could not fail to fill with despair a poor human soul, who with a horrible death staring him in the face, yet desperately held on to life.

NAVAYUG,
June 7th, 1902.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

25. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th June says that many of the

The Chittagong District Board. members of the Chittagong District Board are Europeans, of whom four are tea-planters. Their only object is to make money. The native members are either Government servants or men who like to oblige Europeans, and who cannot therefore always be expected to consult public interest. This year Mr. Geake, the District Magistrate, expressed his desire to remodel the Board and choose a smaller number of tea-planters to sit on it. But, as the result shows, he has not been able to do this.

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June 5th, 1902.

The manner in which the members of the Board voted for a member of the Bengal Legislative Council shows that public opinion has little weight with the white members, among whom those present all voted against Khan Bahadur Maulavi Seraj-ul-Islam. Two old members voted against him, although they had previously expressed their satisfaction at the Comilla District Board's choice of him. An attempt was made to nominate the Vice-Chairman of the Board, although it was almost sure that when Comilla and Noakhali had chosen the Khan Bahadur, he would succeed even if he failed to get the choice of Chittagong. These are nice instances of patriotism and moral courage. So long as the condition of District Boards remains as it is now, it is useless to entrust them with the discharge of any public function.

26. The *Rangpur Dik Prakash* [Rangpur] of the 5th June says, that the Small-pox in the Rangpur epidemic of small-pox is violently raging within district. the Gaibandha subdivision of the Rangpur district, laying waste village after village. More than a

RANGPUR
DIPRAKASH,
June 5th, 1902.

hundred people have died of the disease in Mahiskhacha and the neighbouring villages near Kakina. Cows also are dying of the disease in large numbers. The district authorities should supply proper medical help to the affected villages, else their case will become a very hard one.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 6th, 1902.

27. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th writes as follows:—

The Secretary to the Calcutta Municipality has advertised that the services of a *European* are required to superintend the new hackney-carriage department. Cases like this sometimes lead us to think that the poor rate-payers have been called into existence by God in order to support Europeans, and that we live not under the benign British rule, but under the arbitrary Mugh rule. As rate-payers we have a right to ask the Municipality to explain why it has published such an advertisement, and we desire to draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and of the Commissioners of the Municipality to this advertisement.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BANGAVASI,
May 31st, 1902.

28. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 31st May says that, since the enforcement of the rule that excess passengers will not be taken in railway trains, many people are being daily detained in the Parbatipur station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway for want of accommodation. Thus a greater evil has been created in going to remove a lesser one. The number of passenger trains should be increased in order to remove the hardship which is being caused in this way.

BASUMATI,
June 5th, 1902.

29. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th June says that, on the 25th May last, the Traffic Superintendent of the Bengal-Duars Railway issued a circular to the effect that no railway servants on the line will be allowed leave from the 1st June to the 31st December 1902. But he should have considered that railway servants are not above emergencies, and that worldly calamities befall them as they befall other people. Even day labourers enjoy more freedom than these railway servants. Such a circular as the above speaks not only of want of sympathy in the man who has issued it, but of oppressiveness also. Should poor Indians be oppressed in this manner because they are poor? Better to be a cooly than to serve under such a heartless master!

HITAVADI,
June 6th, 1902.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th June has been informed that the authorities have inquired into the charges which were brought against the Station-master of Beguserai. which were brought against the Station-master of Beguserai on the Bengal North-Western Railway in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 24th May 1902, paragraph 21). Its Beguserai correspondent says that the traders of the place admit that they are obliged to gratify the Station master. This and other charges against him can be proved in many other ways. But it is incomprehensible why he is not transferred from Beguserai, where his stay is causing loss to the Railway Company also by obliging traders to send their goods by steamers and by the East Indian Railway. A few months ago the restaurant-keeper of the Baruni junction station sent a man to Beguserai without a ticket, but with a letter to the Station-master saying that he was his man. This shows that the Station-master has a private arrangement with Messrs. Framji & Co., the owners of the restaurant.

31. The same paper has the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

1. Sahebganj being a junction station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, many passengers have to wait there for hours together in order to change trains. At night these passengers suffer greatly at the hands of railway police constables who lord it over all in the station in the absence of all higher officers. If any man talks of complaining against their conduct, he is driven out of the station after a good handling, or he is obliged to satisfy them with bribes.

Less than a month ago a Bihari gentleman, who was bound for Purnea, alighted at the station at 8 P.M., and led a young lady companion of about 30 into the third class ladies' waiting-room. The eye of the constable on watch

at the time fell on her. He told the gentleman that the waiting-room was meant for Bengali and not for Bihari women. But the gentleman paid no heed to him. The constable then began to make signs which betrayed his evil intention towards the lady, who was greatly frightened and called her husband in. As there was no other woman in the room he went into it. But he was instantly arrested by the constable and taken to the Eurasian Assistant Station-master, who turned a deaf ear to all he said and handed him over to the police. The condition of the poor woman in the waiting-room was entirely unheeded. After keeping the gentleman in a secure place the constable returned to where the lady was. But the latter saved herself by barring the door of the waiting-room from inside. The next day the gentleman was fined two rupees in the Rajmahal law court for entering a ladies' waiting-room. But was it an offence on his part to have entered into it when there was no other lady in it except his wife? People generally enter female compartments of trains in order to bring their women down. But they are not therefore regarded as committing an offence. In the above case the lady remained shut up in the waiting room-without either food or drink till 9 P.M. of the following day when her husband returned from Court.

2. On the 12th May last two respectable men named Panchkari Kaviraj and Syama Charan Bhattacharyya, inhabitants of Guskara station and Sagordighi respectively, put their two young daughters into a female compartment of No. 9 Loop Mail train on the East Indian Railway, but eventually missed the train themselves. The young girls were greatly frightened and alighted at the Sahebganj station. Babu Doman Chandra Thakur, an inhabitant of Berhampore, and Babu Yatindra Mohan Mitra, the Assistant of the Rangpur Pircganj Charitable Dispensary, took pity on them when they heard their story from their own women who were travelling with them, and Doman Babu resolved not to leave them till the arrival of their guardians. But a Eurasian Ticket Collector and a police constable insisted that the two young girls should be kept in the European ladies' waiting-room in spite of the protests of Doman Babu. Their purpose was, however, frustrated by the intervention of Babu Upendra Narayan Banerji, the Ticket Master of the station. What could be the intention of the ticket-collector and the police constable in trying to have the two young girls removed to the solitary European ladies' waiting-room when there was another waiting-room in the station for the use of Indian ladies? Some Bengali Babus also are said to have tried to take away the girls from Doman Babu's protection on the pretext that he was a cooly recruiter.

32. A correspondent of the same paper says that three years ago all his lands were acquired by the Government for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, but no compensation has

A land acquisition case. as yet been awarded to him. He is a cultivator. Who will compensate him for the loss he has suffered in these three years? The amount of the award-money has not even been fixed as yet; and as the lands have grown weedy and the demarcation marks have been effaced by being left uncultivated, it will be difficult to distinguish them from those of others at the time of fixing the compensation. Under the Land Acquisition Act award-money should be paid before acquiring the land. But it is not known why a departure has been made from this rule in this instance.

(h)—General.

33. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 7th June has the following remarks
A postal complaint. on a nice point of postal procedure:—

One Jugeschandra Mukharji was the manager of the Victoria Chemical Works, Ranaghat—a place of business set up by his father, in which medicines used to be prepared in accordance with the directions of several medical men employed in it. Now that Juges is dead, the father has appointed a younger son, named Panchugopal, as manager of the works. But Juges's wife, Srimati Subala Devi, claimed, in virtue of a certificate granted by the District Judge declaring her the heir to her deceased husband, that all postal letters and money-orders addressed to her husband should be made over to her, and this claim was admitted by the Postmaster General, Bengal, who has ordered that not only all letters addressed to her

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husband by name, but also all letters addressed to "the Manager, Victoria Chemical Works" should be delivered to Subala Devi.

Now, the post-office has no right to deliver letters anywhere except in the place indicated in the addresses written thereon, and it is not its province to consider the right of ownership or heirship. In passing the above order the Postmaster-General has, therefore, clearly exceeded his powers.

This order, so faulty in principle, has been productive of even greater mischief than could be imagined. For Subala Devi has, since the above order was passed by the Postmaster-General, set up a rival firm and many letters expressly addressed to "P. G. Mukharji, Manager, Victoria Chemical Works," are not reaching their destination. We, for instance, sent a letter to that address on the 22nd May last, we expected a reply by 8 P.M. on the 24th May, but no reply came. We, therefore, had no choice but to send a messenger to Ranaghat on the 25th, who learnt there that the letter never reached its destination, and that there was, in fact, great irregularity in the delivery of letters. On the 27th we sent by post an order for three bottles of "Mayores" in an assumed name. But this second letter met with no better fate than the first. We wrote to the Postmaster of Ranaghat on the subject, but he has not thought it necessary to give a reply to it. We have heard many other serious complaints against the Ranaghat post-office.

III.—LEGISLATION.

JYOTI,
June 5th, 1902.

34. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th June says that many people doubt the honesty of the Government of India in its

The countervailing duties on avowal that the countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar.

sugar are meant for the protection of the native

sugar industry. As a matter of fact, native sugar industry was ruined fifty years ago, and the duty has not given birth to a single sugar factory in India. From 1860, if not earlier, the Government of India has been filling the Indian market with sugar exported from Mauritius and produced by the British Colonials in that island. The object of this has been to enrich Mauritius at the expense of India. So long the rulers of India had not thought it necessary to protect the native industry. But now that Germany and Austria are threatening the sugar monopoly of Mauritius in India that protection has become necessary. Government is, in fact, doing nothing to improve the native industry; while by raising the price of sugar by the imposition of duties, it is taking from Indians the money which could be turned to good account in many other ways. But free-trade is not for India. The kinsmen of Englishmen in Mauritius must be fattened at any cost.

PRATIVASI,
June 9th, 1902.

35. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June says that by way of a counter-move against the so-called "cartel system"

The Indian Tariff Amendment Bill.

the Government of India has raised the duty on

the importation of bounty-fed sugar. Government

did not meet with much opposition in carrying this measure. Educated Indians are profoundly ignorant of Political Economy and measures that vitally affect the economic condition of the country therefore receive little attention in the native press.

On account of this rise in the duty we have been deprived of cheap German sugar. But what have we gained in lieu of the advantage we have lost? Government says that this rise in the duty has saved the sugar industry of India. But how can an industry be saved that has, so to speak, no existence at all? There were, in all, but 14 sugar manufactories all over India. Of these some have ceased to exist. The "Hindu Sugar Factory" of Chaugachha and the "Sugar Refinery" of Kotchand and Tarpur are in a deplorable condition. Why should the entire Indian population be subjected to an indirect tax for the benefit of this handful of factories? But no one could be found to put in a word for the people of the country, and Messrs. Finlay and Turner's advocacy carried the day.

The Indian people depend far more upon molasses than upon sugar, and so long as the consumption of sugar remains, sugar-cane cultivation will flourish in this country. But we shall lose nothing even if German sugar becomes so cheap as to compete even with molasses. In that case the Indian cultivator

will be able to take to the cultivation of some crop which is easier to cultivate than sugar-cane. On the Viceroy's own showing there has been no increase of sugar-cane cultivation during the last three years, or, in other words, since the time when the sugar duty was first imposed. His Excellency is inclined to think that the famine accounts for this.

But it is somewhat strange that the famine which has not stood in the way of contributions towards the "Victoria Memorial," of costly voyages to England, of public festivities, of parties, of costly receptions of officials, should stand only in the way of the employment of capital in sugar-cane cultivation. His Excellency was much nearer the mark when he said :— "Native capital is shy and requires to be coaxed." The country is not yet ripe for commercial enterprise, and the new import duty in the name of the protection of a native industry will only add to the burdens of the people.

36. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 7th June has the following in its English columns :—

The Comilla District Board's election for the Bengal Legislative Council.

As we announced in our last issue, a special meeting of the District Board was held last Monday,

at 8 A.M. The meeting was full, members whose

visits to the meetings like angels' visits are few and far between, mustered strong ; of 19 members, 17 were present, two members, Messrs. McMinn and Ward, are absent from the district for a long time. A departure was made from the usual practice in vogue in the Board here in collecting votes ; votes were taken by ballots in spite of a protest. Two candidates were proposed. Babu Kailas Chandra Datta was proposed by Babu Rajani Nath Nandi, seconded by Babu Govinda Chandra Bardhan ; Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sirajul Islam was proposed and seconded by Messrs. Withral and Delauney. Kailas Babu and Khan Bahadur had seven votes each. So there was a tie. Dr. Fleming and Syed Abdul Jabbar reserved their votes. Chairman, Mr. Scroope, gave his votes for Khan Bahadur ; so Khan Bahadur has succeeded in winning the game. The result of the meeting has taken all by surprise ; we make no hesitation to say that the defeat of Kailas Babu is looked upon by the intelligent public as nothing short of a calamity. The explanation of this lies in a nut-shell ; we shall explain it presently. Kailas Babu was the only local candidate ; he is a member of the Board since its establishment ; he is not a mere ornamental figure-head ; in the midst of his extensive practice as a lawyer he devoted most ungrudgingly his time and energy to the services of the Board ; it was expected from an intelligent body like the Board that in consideration of his services to the Board, if not for anything else, he should be given preference to any other candidates. Besides it is the intention of the Government, that the local man who is conversant with local wants, should be elected. Evidently with that object the residential clause is inserted, it is a condition precedent, nay the only condition to the eligibility of a member.

The Government resolution distinctly says "subject to this condition, the rules declare no limit of qualification." We are sorry to say that many members entirely forgot the most important factor in the resolution. We are constrained to say that the defeat of Kailas Babu is very keenly felt by the public. When we say this, we simply voice the public opinion. We have received several indignant letters condemning the action of the Board. For obvious reasons we would not publish them.

We do not care to discuss here the means adopted to secure the defeat of Kailas Babu. It is an open secret how some members acted faithlessly. We would fain pass by the melancholy meanness displayed by some of them ; we are sure public opinion beats fiercely on their despicable conduct, Khan Bahadur is elected by the vote of the Chairman ; it is quite inexplicable to us why Mr. Scroope gave preference to Khan Bahadur.

That it is by the weight of the official votes Khan Bahadur has got the better of Kailas Babu nobody can deny ; we congratulate Khan Bahadur on his success ; but we are prepared to say that it is by the vote of the District Magistrate and by those of official and nominated members that he has scored a success. Now let us see whether the special meeting convened on the 2nd instant could give finality to the election, whether it is the intention of Government to elect a member for the Council in such a meeting. We

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June 7th, 1902.

say no; the special meeting was convened with the object of selecting a representative for the purpose of making the recommendation for the seat in Council; but what was done in the meeting was that instead of selecting the representative, the member for the Council was elected; certainly this is not the object of the Government resolution. No doubt a representative has been selected, but that has been done after the election of the member. Here the cart has been put before the horse; it is a direct infringement of the rules of the Government. We hope Government will be pleased to take this under serious consideration. We hope our Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Greenshields, will consider the legality or otherwise of the proceedings of the special meetings before the representatives are called upon to meet together for the purpose of electing a member; if special meetings have jurisdiction to elect the member, then what is the use of going through the farce of electing again?

We regret to find that the question of race antagonism was introduced into the matter by some unscrupulous persons. We make no hesitation to say that it is not a fact, that race antagonism found a place there; in support of our contention we say that had there been any such feeling, Babu Sirish Chandra Banerjee would not have voted for Khan Bahadur, Syed Abdul Jobbar would not have reserved his vote.

We publish elsewhere the opinion of the press about Kailas Babu.

We are of opinion that we ought to send a new man whenever an opportunity presents itself for doing so. After this, we need hardly say, we strongly support the candidature of Babu Kailas Chandra Datta, the veteran *vakil* of the Comilla Bar. The exceptional merits of Kailas Babu are too well-known to need any enumeration here. We refer the reader to your Bengali columns for some details about Kailas Babu's public life.—*Dacca Gazette*.

We have reasons to expect from what we know of the abilities of Kailas Babu as a lawyer, a speaker and a public-spirited young man, that he will be the right man in the right place, if he be elected, as he should be, by the District Boards of the Chittagong Division as their representative in the Bengal Legislative Council. We need hardly mention anything more in particular about him as a lawyer and a speaker. As to what we have to record about him as a public-spirited man, it will suffice to mention that he has always taken an active part in public movements from his college days. We also hope that, from the above considerations, both the Khan Bahadur and the Rai Bahadur will be glad to see their young energetic rival elected.—*The East*.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BIKAS,
June 3rd, 1902.

Crop prospects in the Backergunge district
in wait for the district.

PRATIVASI,
June 9th, 1902.

Crop prospects.
38. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th June says that storms and heavy rainfall have done immense injury to crops in many parts of Lower Bengal. In most places in East Bengal sowing is at a stand still owing to heavy rain fall. Famine is inevitable in some places.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,
June 5th, 1902.

39. Referring to the stricture published in the *Englishman* newspaper of the 29th May last, on the grievance ventilated by the native press that Government has done injustice to the educated community of this country by not inviting any of its leaders to attend the coming Coronation in London, the *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 5th June writes as follows:—

It is true that the Hon'ble Justice Gurudas Banerji received an invitation. It is true also that he is a perfect type of an educated Indian. But was he invited simply as such? How many of the Government guests are untitled educated natives? We do not recognise those as representing the educated native community whom the *Englishman* calls representatives of that community. Mr. Chitnavis may represent the Central Provinces; but he represents money-lenders and not educated men. Perhaps the *Englishman* does not

know that this Chitnavis is not the same man as the honourable member of the same name who sat in the Imperial Legislative Council. It should be said of the Englishman that though vanquished he can argue still.

40. The *Banga Bandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 7th June is sorry that Addresses to the King-Emperor. the Government of India has prohibited the presentation of addresses by public bodies to the King-Emperor on the occasion of the Coronation without its permission. There was a time when people could gratify themselves by expressing their love and reverence for their sovereign. Loyal Indians are sorry to find the address of the Bogra Municipality refused.

BANGA BANDHU,
Jun 7th, 1902.

URIYA PAPERS.

41. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 31st May states that there was no rain in the last week in the Cuttack district. Rain in the Cuttack and Balasore districts. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 29th May states that there were several showers of rain in the

UTKALDIPAKA.
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SAMVADVAHAKA,
May 29th, 1902.

Balasore district which have proved very useful to agriculturists.

42. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 31st May regrets to note that Fire in a village in the Puri district. about 200 houses were burnt down in village Satyabhamapur near Bhawaneswar in the Puri district. A large quantity of paddy, the food-stuff

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May 31st, 1902.

of a large number of men, was thus destroyed beyond all means of recovery.

43. The same paper regrets to notice the death of Mr. Allen, Magistrate of Monghyr, who was much esteemed by the public The late Mr. Allen. for his justice, benevolence and other amiable qualities.

UTKALDIPAKA.

44. Referring to the Mulchand case and the part played in it by Mr. Vernède, the Joint-Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, the same paper points out that additions or alterations made to or in a record, after the proper time, were so bad as to invite hostile comments even from the High Court and waits to see what action Government is going to take in the matter.

UTKALDIPAKA.

45. The same paper approves of the order of merit instituted by the Government of India, and hopes that its creation will encourage acts of heroism or bravery on the part of the Indians.

UTKALDIPAKA.

46. Referring to the donation of Rs. 10,000 made by the Raja of Mayurbhanj to the Ghosal Hindu Girls' School, The Mayurbhanj donation to the proposed Ghosal Hindu Girls' School, the same paper observes that the benevolent act of the Raja will enable the institution to look after the interests of the Hindu girls, for whom a special course of studies has been prescribed, suited to the requirements of Hindu homes.

UTKALDIPAKA.

47. Referring to the working of the Municipal Appeal Committees in Cuttack, the same paper points out that on a particular day out of 100 appeals presented, 80 proved successful. This shows clearly that the assessment was made on insufficient data without particular regard to facts and figures that might have been collected with a small amount of diligence.

UTKALDIPAKA.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th June, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

